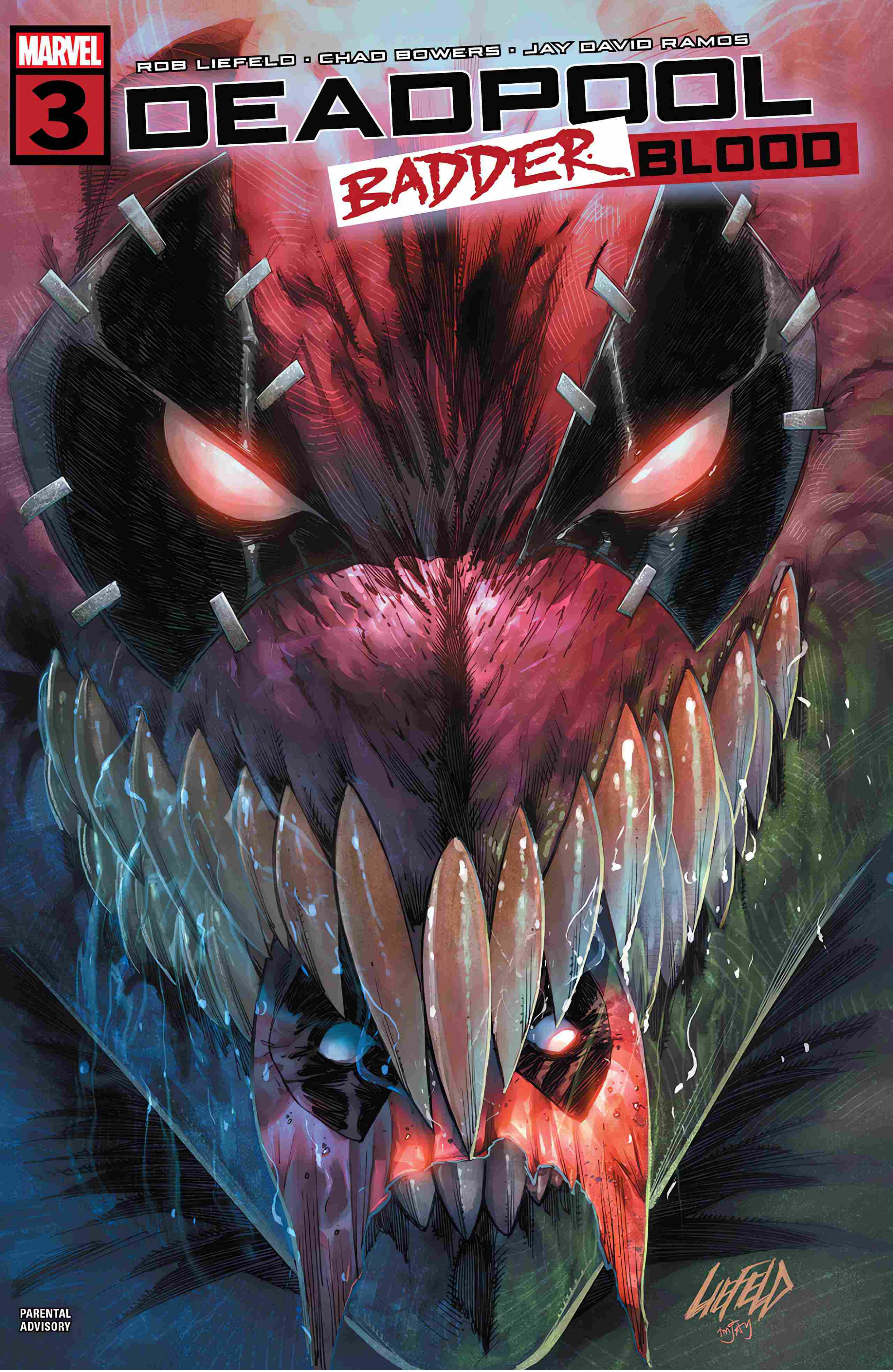


MARVEL
3

ROB LIEFELD • CHAD BOWERS • JAY DAVID RAMOS

DEADPOOL

BADDER **BLOOD**



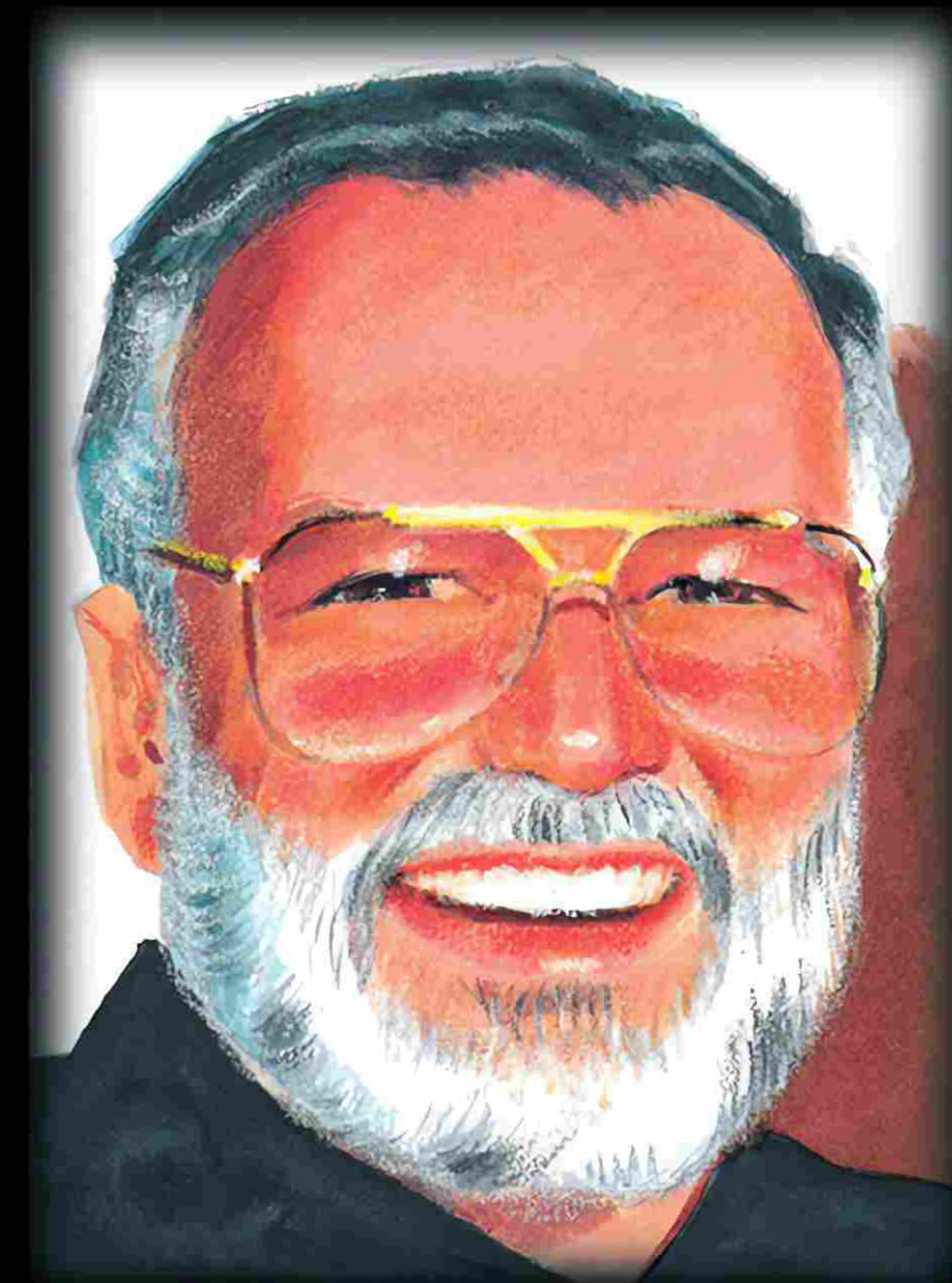
PARENTAL
ADVISORY

LIEFELD
JAY



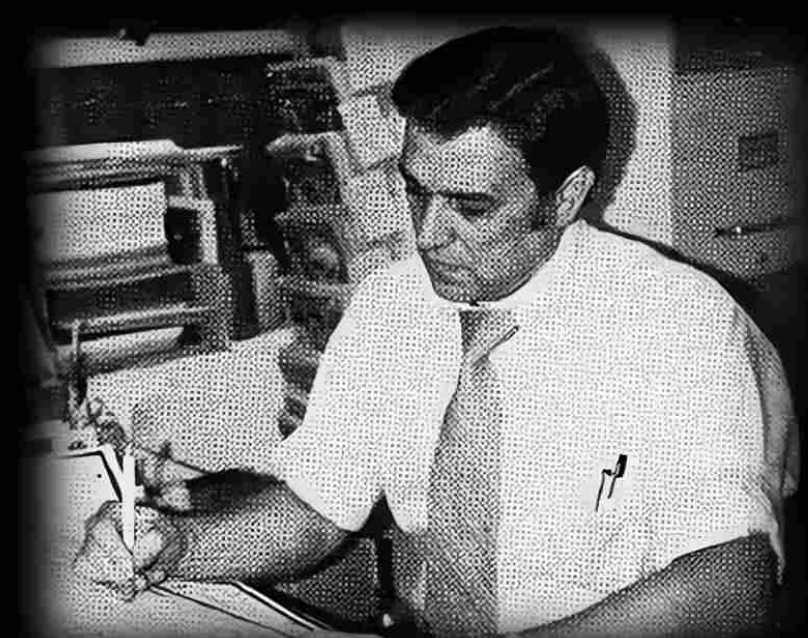
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

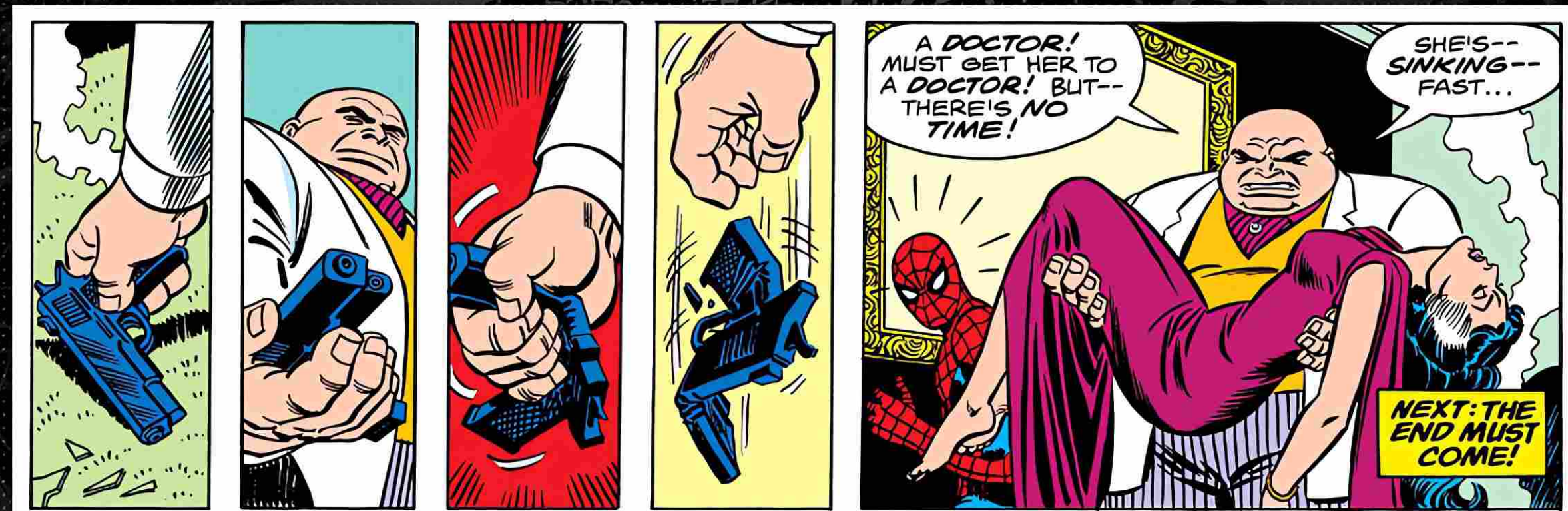
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'lazzy' John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

Deadpool is trapped in the virtual-reality fight-fest that is Killville! But wait, let's back up. Deadpool's old high school pal, Miles Ellison, is now the ultimate destructive force known as Thumper. Deadpool has been hunting down Dr. Van Strutten, the man behind Department H's refurb of Miles. Wolverine and Cable took in Van Strutten just before Thumper could get to him and even stopped DP from killing the doc, revealing that Van Strutten had turned over a new leaf. Thumper's goal was to force Van Strutten to create an army of Super-Soldiers just like him. DP set off to foil these plans, only to find himself caught up in the larger plans of Arcata and her enforcer known as Killville. The fight with Killville did not go well for Wade, as Killville was able to drag Deadpool into a series of hyper-real and disorienting mindscape battle scenarios! As Deadpool awakens to find his former X-Force team missing on a mission, will he be able to pull himself together to escape Killville's trap? Or is this real after all?



DEADPOOL

STORY

ROB LIEFELO

SCRIPT

CHAD BOWERS

PENCILS & INKS

ROB LIEFELO

COLOR ARTIST

JAY DAVID RAMOS

LETTERER

VC'S JOE SABINO

COVER

**ROB LIEFELO &
JAY DAVID RAMOS**

VARIANT COVERS

**ROB LIEFELO &
ROMULO FAJARDO JR.;
ROD REIS**

DESIGN

JAY BOWEN

ASSISTANT EDITOR

DREW BAUMGARTNER

EDITOR

MARK BASSO

EDITOR IN CHIEF

C.B. CEBULSKI

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 SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE SENTIENT TORTURE TESSERACT KNOWN AS KILLVILLE...

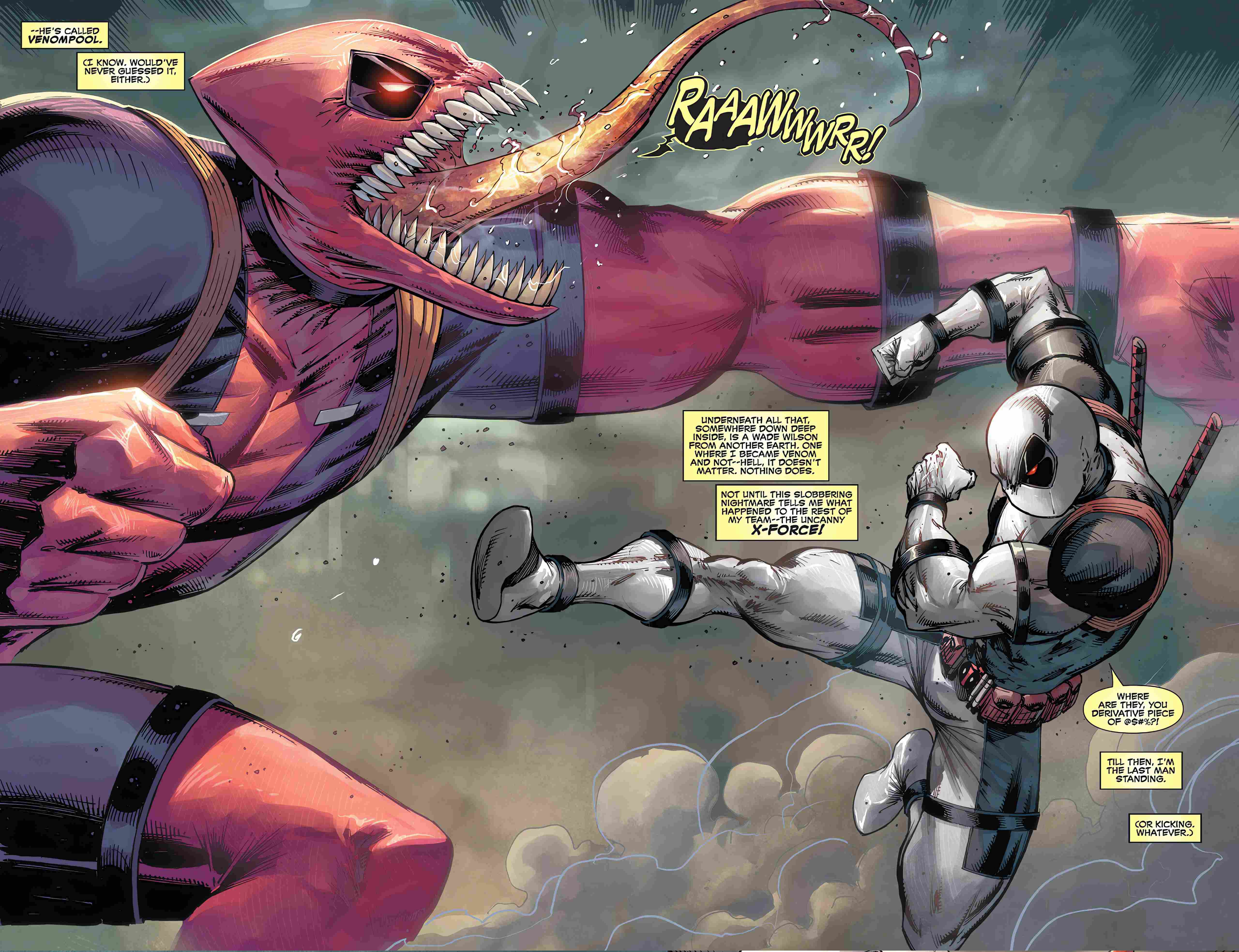
WHY
WON'T YOU
JUST KEEP
STILL?!

ALL THIS
JUMPING AROUND,
IT ONLY REMINDS
US OF HIM--THE
SPIDER!

AND YOU
DON'T WANT US
THINKING ABOUT
THAT ONE! NOT IF
YOU WANT A QUICK
AND EASY
DEATH--

--THAT
DOESN'T END
WITH US EATING
YOU ALIVE!

THE TONGUE WITH
LEGS CURRENTLY
TRYING TO BREAK
MY OWN--



--HE'S CALLED
VENOMPOOL.

(I KNOW. WOULD'VE
NEVER GUESSED IT,
EITHER.)

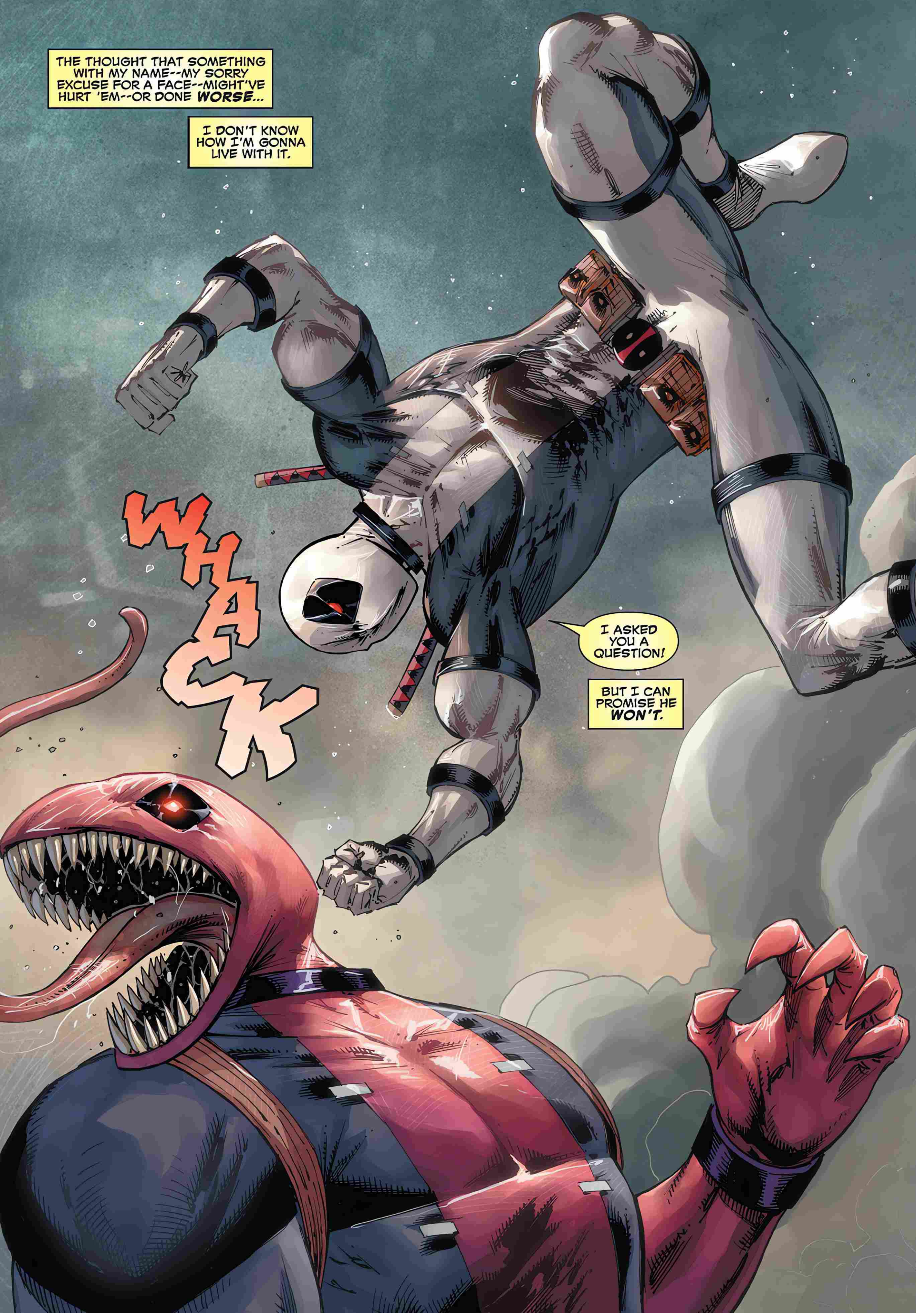
UNDERNEATH ALL THAT,
SOMEWHERE DOWN DEEP
INSIDE, IS A WADE WILSON
FROM ANOTHER EARTH. ONE
WHERE I BECAME VENOM
AND NOT--HELL, IT DOESN'T
MATTER. NOTHING DOES.

NOT UNTIL THIS SLOBBERING
NIGHTMARE TELLS ME WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE REST OF
MY TEAM--THE UNICANNY
X-FORCE!

WHERE
ARE THEY. YOU
DERIVATIVE PIECE
OF @\$%?!

TILL THEN, I'M
THE LAST MAN
STANDING.

(OR KICKING.
WHATEVER.)

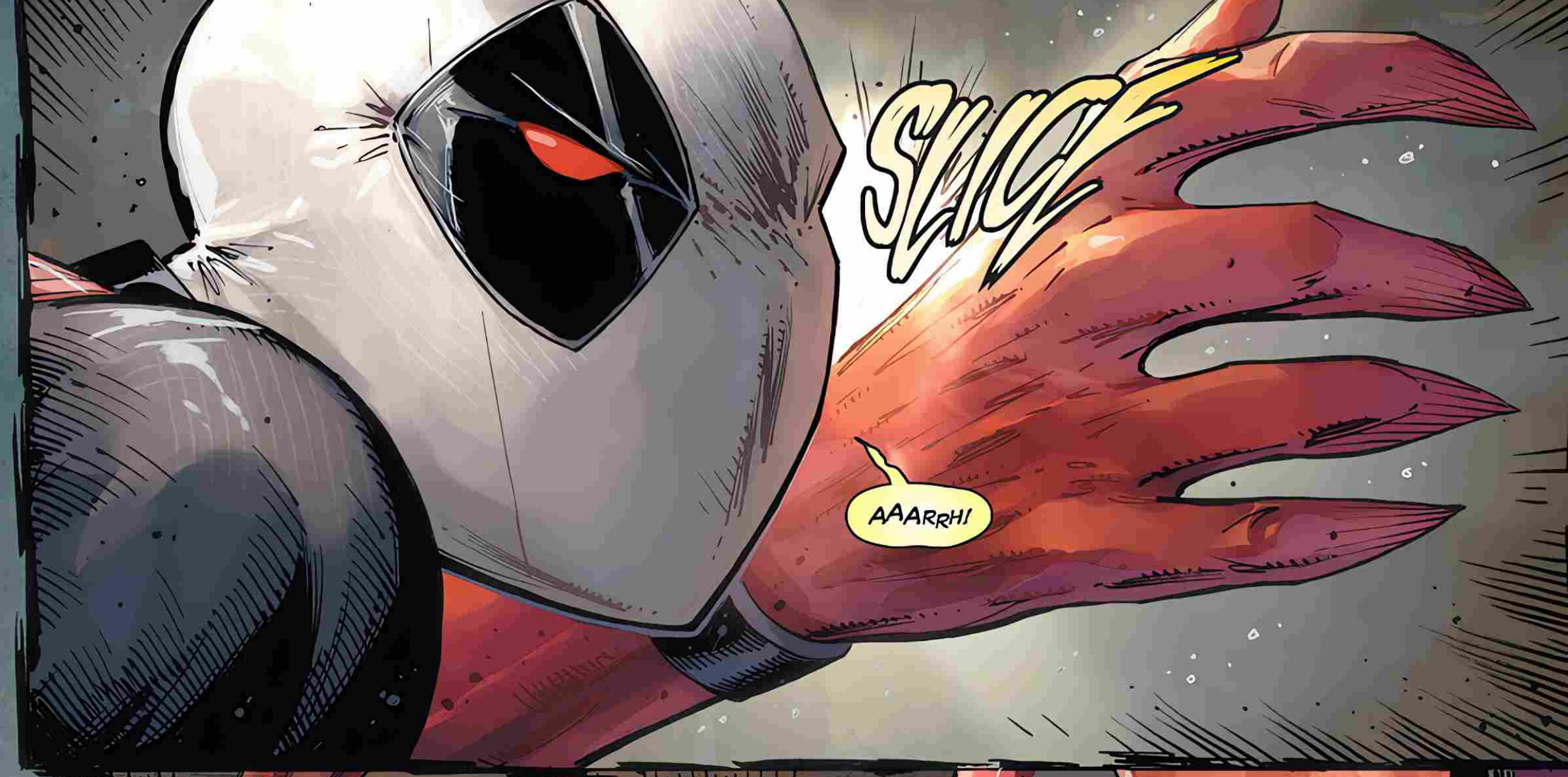


THE THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING
WITH MY NAME--MY SORRY
EXCUSE FOR A FACE--MIGHT'VE
HURT 'EM--OR DONE **WORSE...**

I DON'T KNOW
HOW I'M GONNA
LIVE WITH IT.

I ASKED
YOU A
QUESTION!

BUT I CAN
PROMISE HE
WON'T.



SWAP

AAARRH!



OH, NOW
YOU DECIDE
NOT TO
TALK?!



TRUST ME,
FELLA--YOU'LL
SPILL YOUR
GUTS.

ONE
WAY OR
ANOTHER.

HAHAHAHAHAHA!

FUNNY LITTLE MAN.
JUST LIKE
PARKER.

WE DON'T
UNDERSTAND
YOU, BUT WE
DON'T NEED
TO.

ALL WE
NEED IS OUR HATE FOR
THE WALL-CRAWLER--WITH HIS
SICKLY AUNT AND TALK OF
RESPONSIBILITY AND THE
THWIPPING AND THE QUIPPING! TO
FEEL HIS BONES SNAPPING
UNDER THE PRESSURE OF
OUR JAWS!

FUNNY LIKE
PARKER. YOU
WILL MAKE FINE
PRACTICE!

MISSED!

AGILE AND
SWIFT! EVEN
MORE LIKE HIM,
I SEE!

THINK
SO?

YAAAAARRRRHHH!

YOU EVER
SEE SPIDEY
DO THAT?

NEARBY...

KILLVILLE,
YOU GENIUS!

THAT KIND OF
GORE-FILLED INSANITY
WILL HAVE CLIENTS FALLING
ALL OVER THEMSELVES TO
HIRE US FOR ASSASSINATION
PARTIES NEXT FALL--RIGHT
AFTER WE PUT BIG BROTHER
ARCADE OUT OF
BUSINESS!

MURDERWORLD'S
AN OUTRIGHT ANTIQUE
COMPARED TO YOU.
UNDER MY DIRECTION,
OF COURSE.

INDEED,
ARCATA.

RECOMMENDING
DEADPOOL AS OUR
INITIAL SUBJECT WAS
INSPIRED. HIS ENHANCED
HEALING ABILITIES MADE
HIM THE IDEAL CHOICE.

BUT HIS CHANCES
OF SURVIVING
DECREASE BY THE
NANOSECOND...

I MUST TEST
MY OWN LIMITS
BEFORE HE
EXPIRES.

FINE. I
DON'T LIKE IT,
BUT...FINE.

KEEP
VENOMPOOL
IN THE MIX,
THOUGH.

HE'S A DAMN
COOL VISUAL. BUT
MORE THAN THAT,
MAYBE WE CAN STRIP
THE SYMBIOTE WHEN
OUR DEADPOOL
FINALLY BURNS
OUT.

HOPEFULLY
HE'S JUST AS
RESILIENT.

WELCOME
TO KILLVILLE 2.0,
DEADPOOL...

...WHO CARES IF
YOU SURVIVE THE
EXPERIENCE?

LAST PLACE I
WANNA BE IS INSIDE
VENOMPOOL'S HEAD.

GOT PLENTY OF LOOSE
SCREWS AND FIRECRACKERS
RATTLING 'ROUND INSIDE MY
OWN CABEZA, BELIEVE ME--
BUT, DAMMIT, I GOTTA KNOW--

DO YOU
KNOW WHO
I AM?



SURE,
I KNOW
YOU!

YOU'RE
AGENT X! THE
MOST DESPICABLE
ASSASSIN IN ALL THE
MULTIVERSE!

HAD TO ASK,
DIDN'T I?!

YOUR VILLAINOUS
REPUTATION IS KNOWN
FAR AND WIDE, AND SECOND
ONLY TO THAT OF THE
SINISTER SPIDER-MAN--
OUR NEMESIS!

AND
IF WE HADN'T
MADE IT CLEAR
BEFORE--

--WE
**LOVE TO KILL
VILLAINS!**

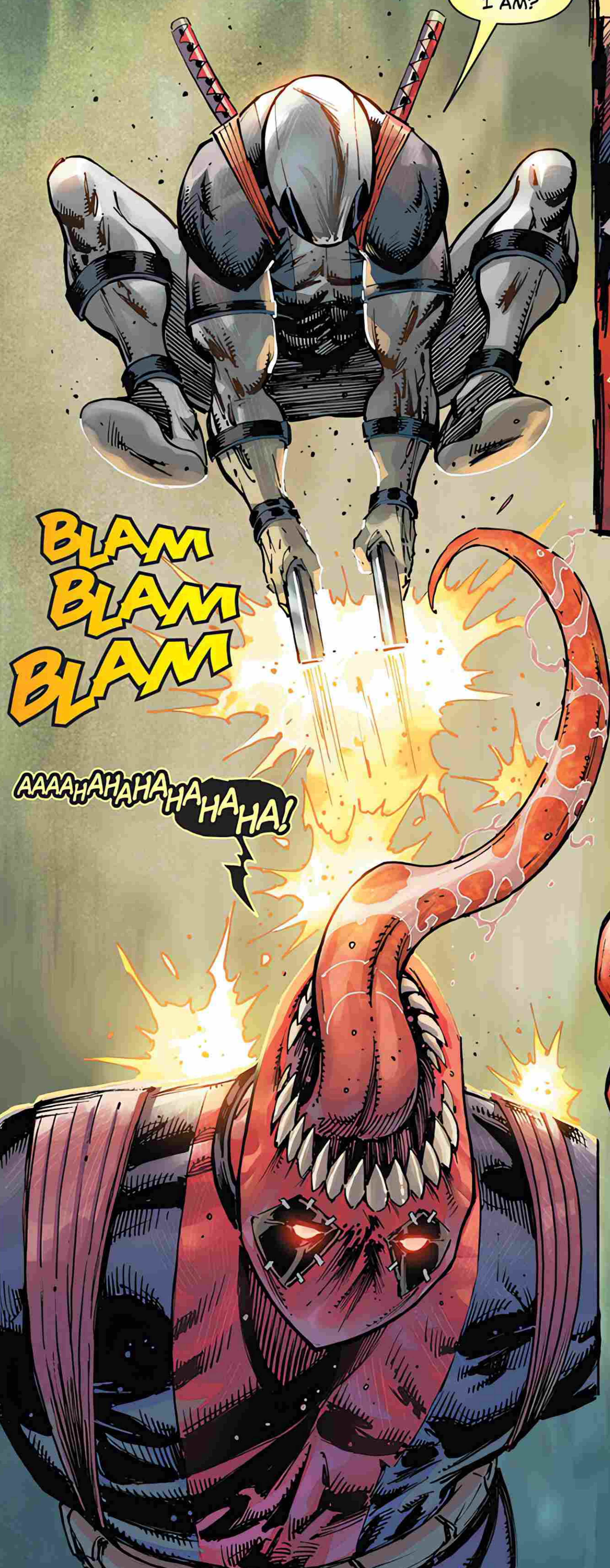
DID HE
SAY...

KILL...
VILLE--?



CHEESE AN'
CRACKERS! I'M
STILL IN KILLVILLE!

VENOMPOOL,
LISTEN TO
ME--



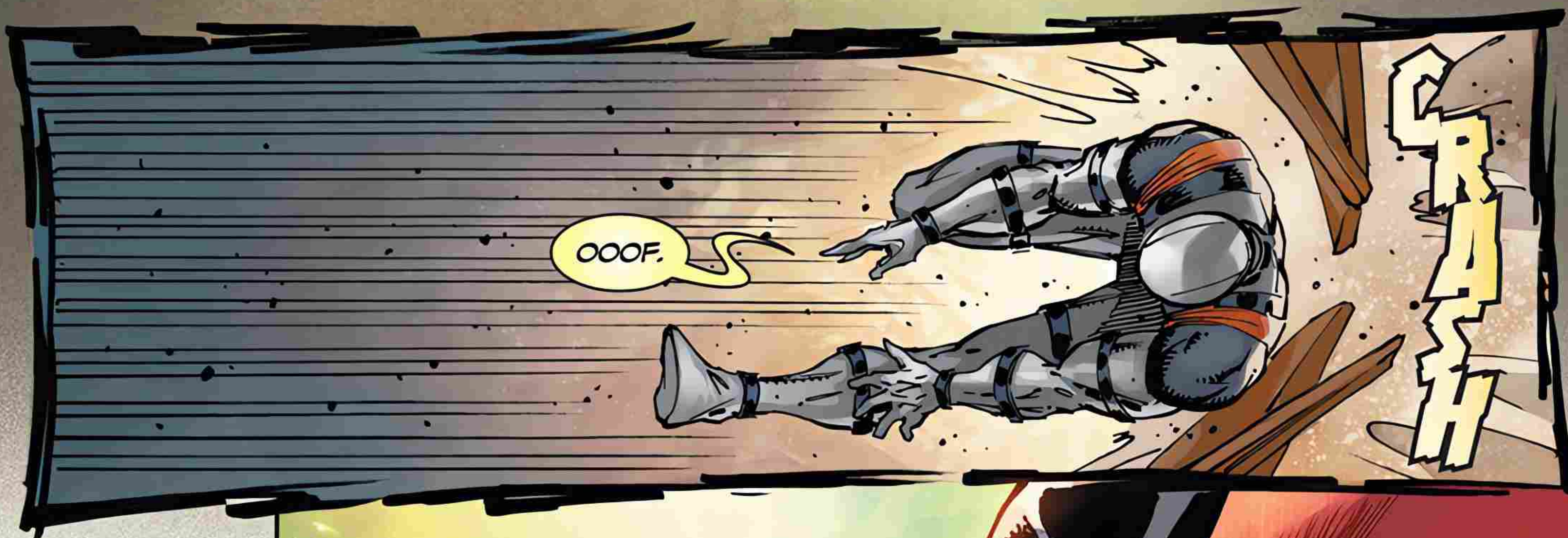
**BLAM
BLAM
BLAM**

AAAAHAHAHAHAHAHA!



NO!

WAAAAIIIAAAAAHHHHTTT.



OOOF.

CRASH



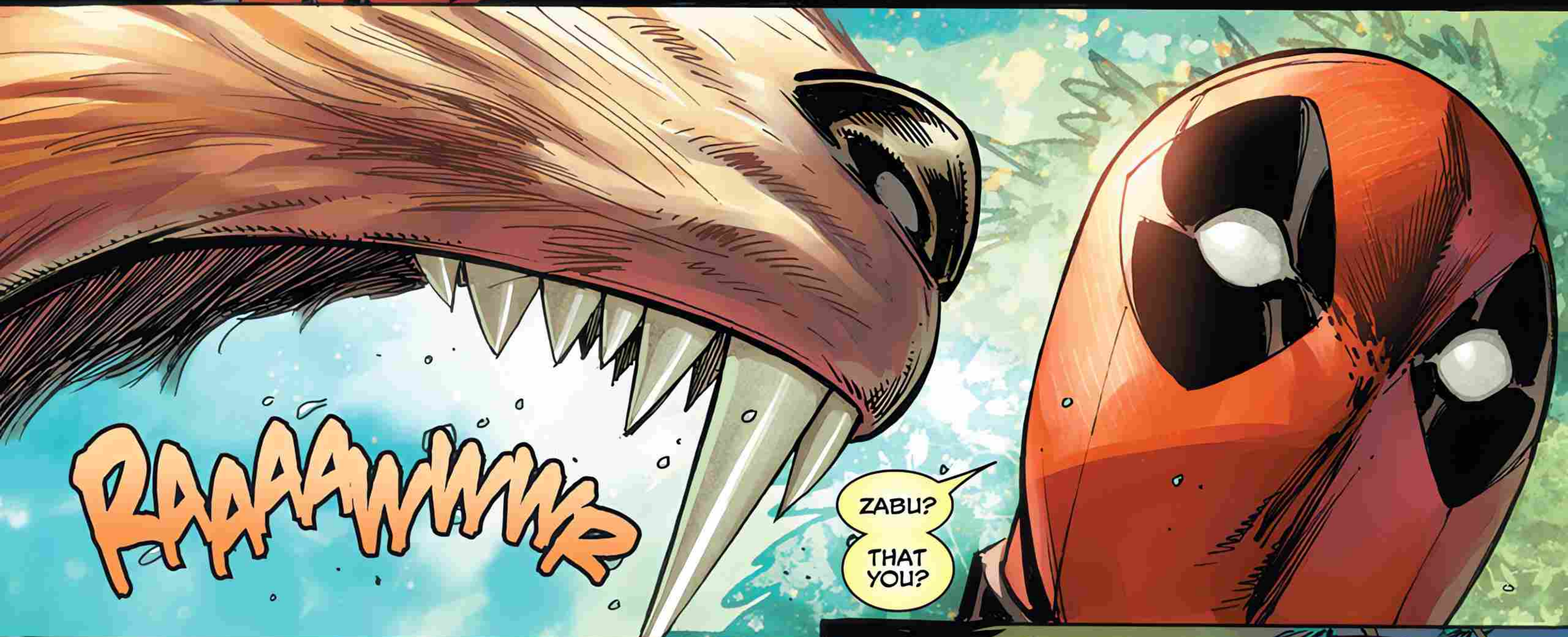
UNNNH...

I'VE SEEN SOME
ODDBALL #S%@
IN MY TIME--

--BUT I'M PRETTY SURE VENOMPOOL JUST THREW ME INTO THE SAVAGE LAND.

SNMRRRRLL

MMMM HMMM. THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT JUST HAPPENED.



ZABU?

THAT YOU?

PRRRR

YEAH, I THOUGHT SO.

WHEW CAN YOU IMAGINE IF I'D BEEN WRONG?

LIKE, HOW EMBARRASSING WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN FOR BOTH OF US?

AND IF YOU'RE THE REAL ZABU...

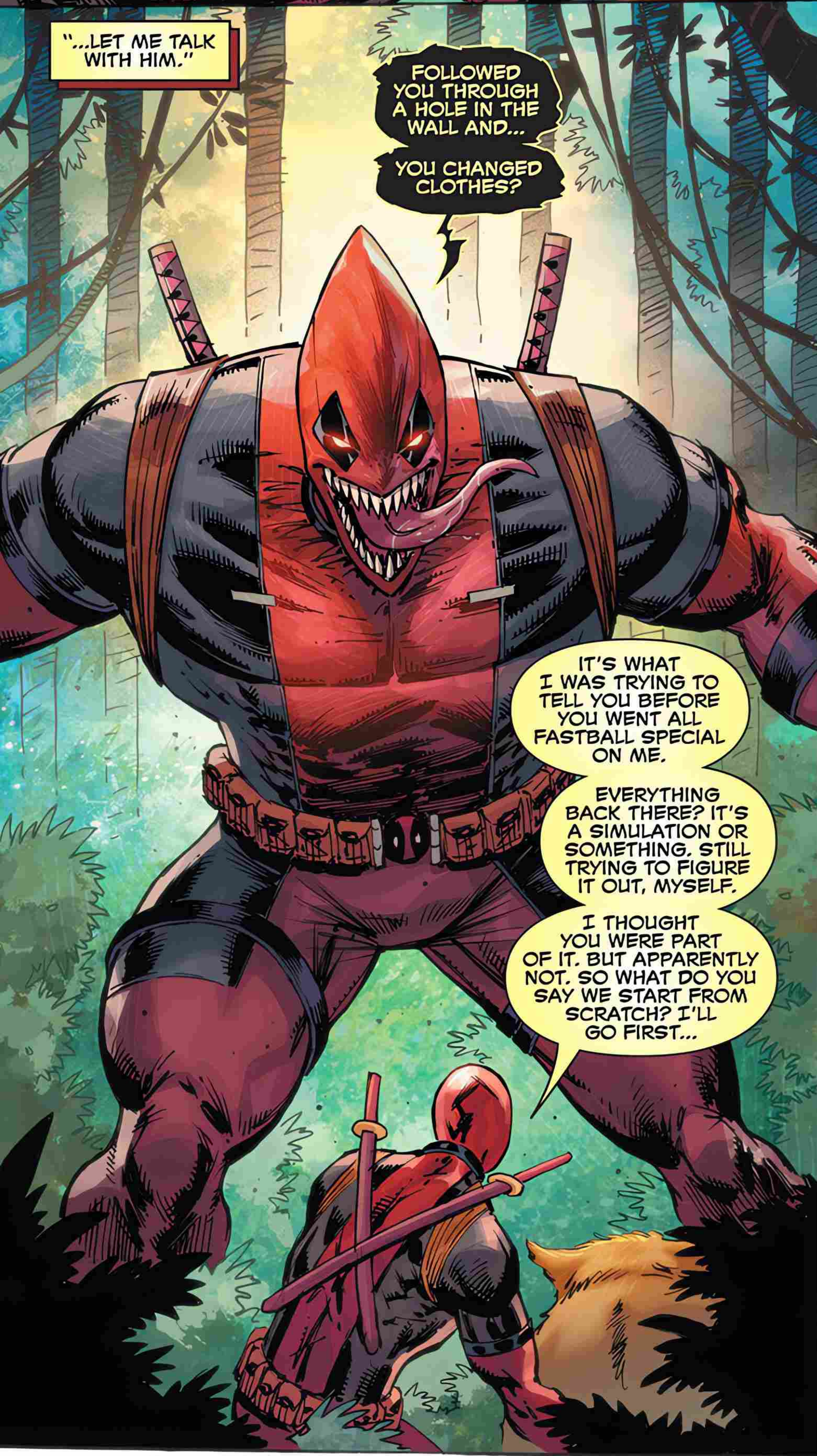
...DOES THAT MEAN I MANAGED TO FINALLY ESCAPE KILLVILLE?



GRRRRR

HUH,
THAT'S A LITTLE
UNEXPECTED.

DON'T
SWEAT IT,
ZEE...



"...LET ME TALK
WITH HIM."

FOLLOWED
YOU THROUGH
A HOLE IN THE
WALL AND...

YOU CHANGED
CLOTHES?

IT'S WHAT
I WAS TRYING TO
TELL YOU BEFORE
YOU WENT ALL
FASTBALL SPECIAL
ON ME.

EVERYTHING
BACK THERE? IT'S
A SIMULATION OR
SOMETHING. STILL
TRYING TO FIGURE
IT OUT, MYSELF.

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE PART
OF IT. BUT APPARENTLY
NOT. SO WHAT DO YOU
SAY WE START FROM
SCRATCH? I'LL
GO FIRST...



HI, I'M
WADE.

YOU WILL
GET US HOME.
OR ELSE.

WADE
DON'T LIKE
THREATS.

WE DO
NOT LIKE
YOU.





**YOU
DID THIS
TO US!**

**YANKED US
OUT OF OUR
WORLD WITHOUT
PROVOCATION OR
PURPOSE--**

**--AND
BROUGHT
US HERE TO
TORMENT AND
CONFUSE!**

RAAAAAA

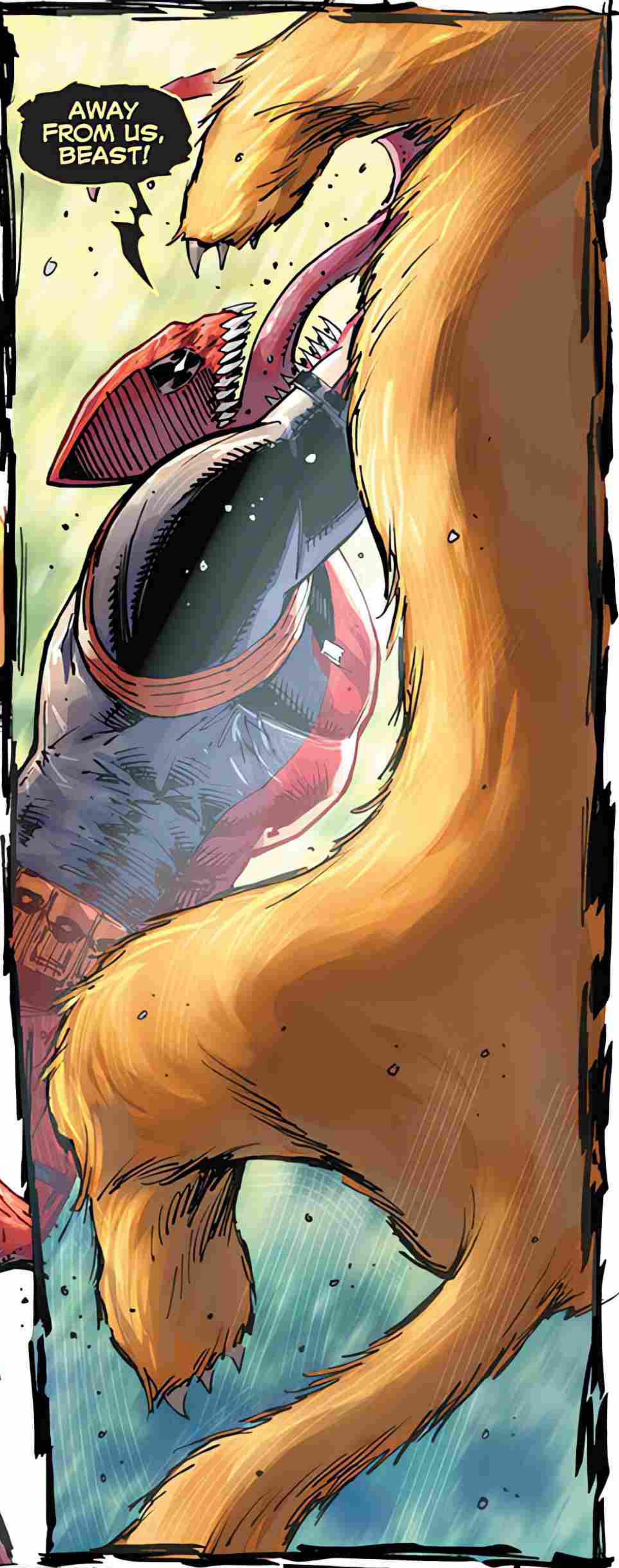
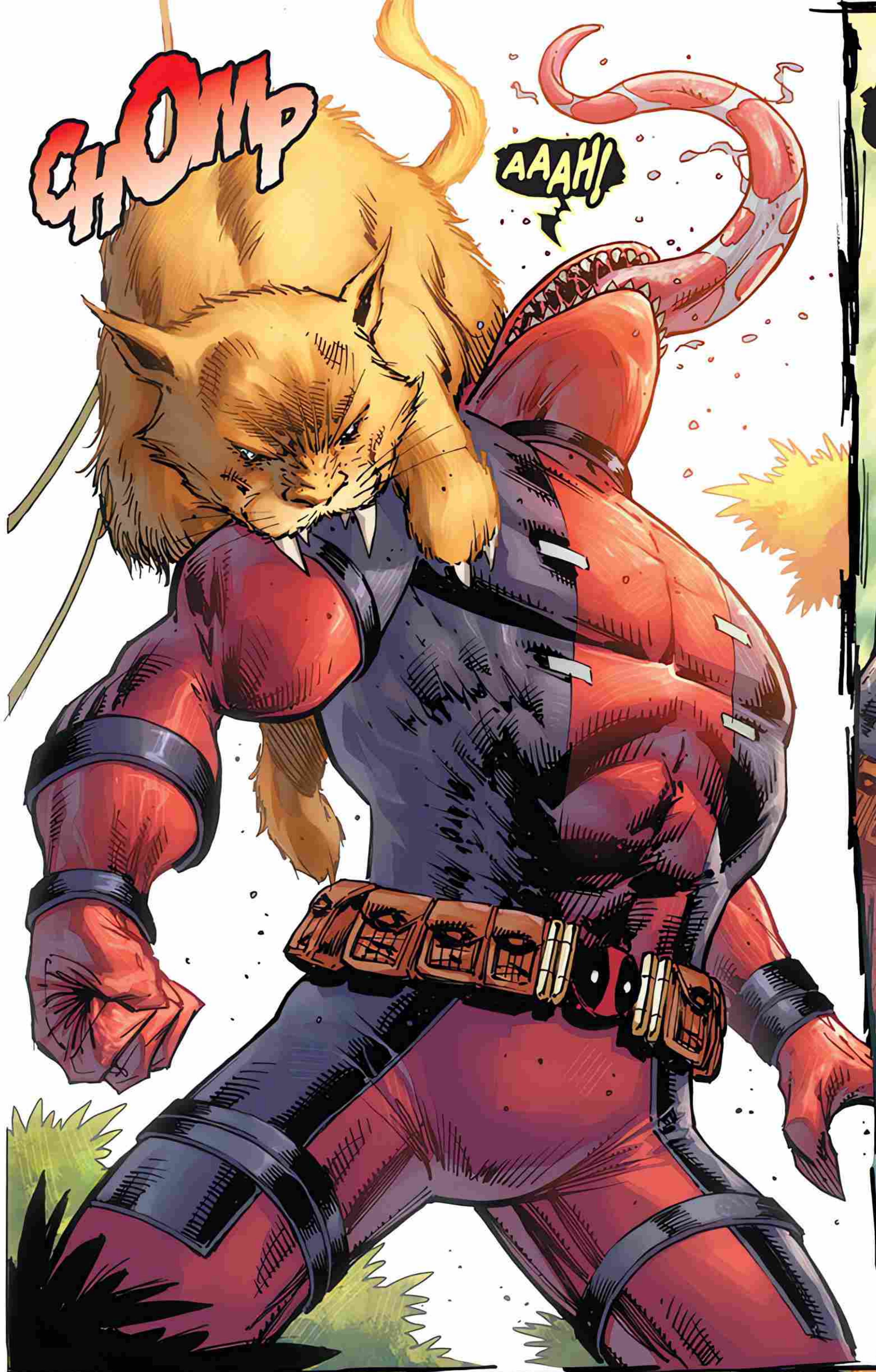
UUUGH!

**ALL RIGHT,
FORGET WHAT I
SAID, ZABU...**

**"...LITTLE HELP,
PLEASE."**

RAAAAAA





DEEP SPACE.
THE SHIP'AR EMPIRE.





HMPH. A HUMAN. HIS DIALECT AND WEAK VOICE GIVE HIM AWAY.

STAND DOWN, IMPERIAL GUARD. WE ARE IN NO DANGER FROM THIS ONE.

HOLD ON A MINUTE. **I'M PLENTY DANGEROUS!**

ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M CONFUSED, WHICH IS MOST OF THE TIME. AND **ESPECIALLY** RIGHT NOW!

SO I'M GONNA NEED SOME ANSWERS!



AND SINCE THE LAST PEOPLE WHO EVEN STOOD A CHANCE OF TELLING ME WHAT'S GOING ON WERE MY SYMBIOTE-POSSESSED TWIN AND A BIG CAT...GUESS YOU'RE UP, SPACE ELVIS.

SO WHAT DO YOU GUYS KNOW ABOUT KILLVILLE?



"SYMBIOTE"? DOES HE MEAN--

KLYNTAR. HE COULD BE IN LEAGUE WITH THEM.

HE JUST ADMITTED IT, DIDN'T YOU HEAR?



HE'S ONE OF THEM!

HE'S A SPY! AN INVASION CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND!

LET HIM SPEAK!

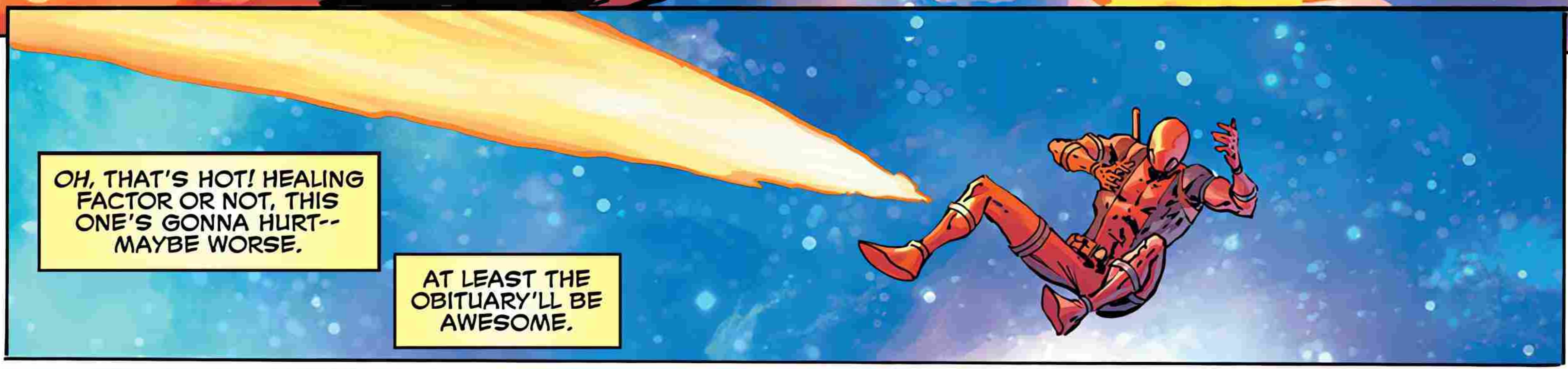
UM...NO ONE'S EVER SAID THAT ABOUT ME.

I FEEL REALLY SEEN RIGHT NOW.



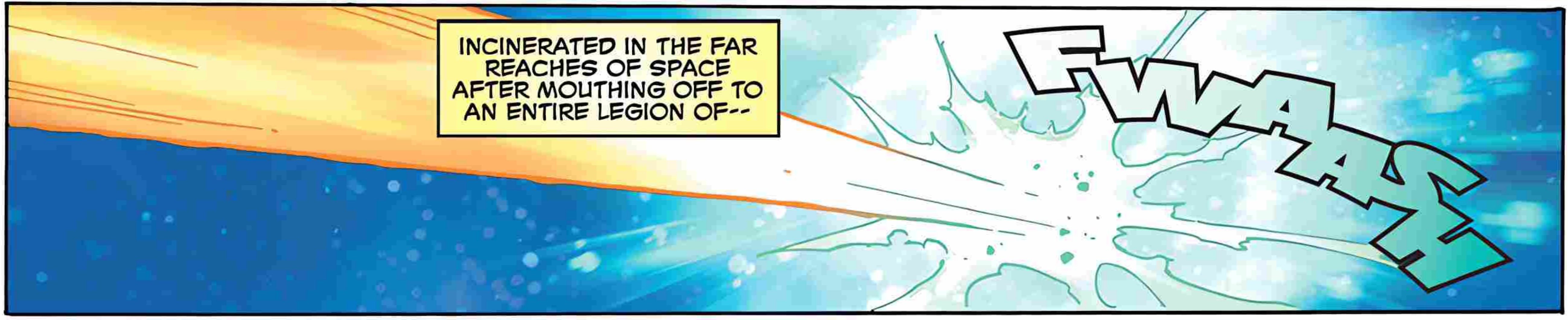
ENOUGH!
STARBOLT,
ERADICATE THE
INTERLOPER!

AS YOU
COMMAND,
PRAETOR!



OH, THAT'S HOT! HEALING
FACTOR OR NOT, THIS
ONE'S GONNA HURT--
MAYBE WORSE.

AT LEAST THE
OBITUARY'LL BE
AWESOME.

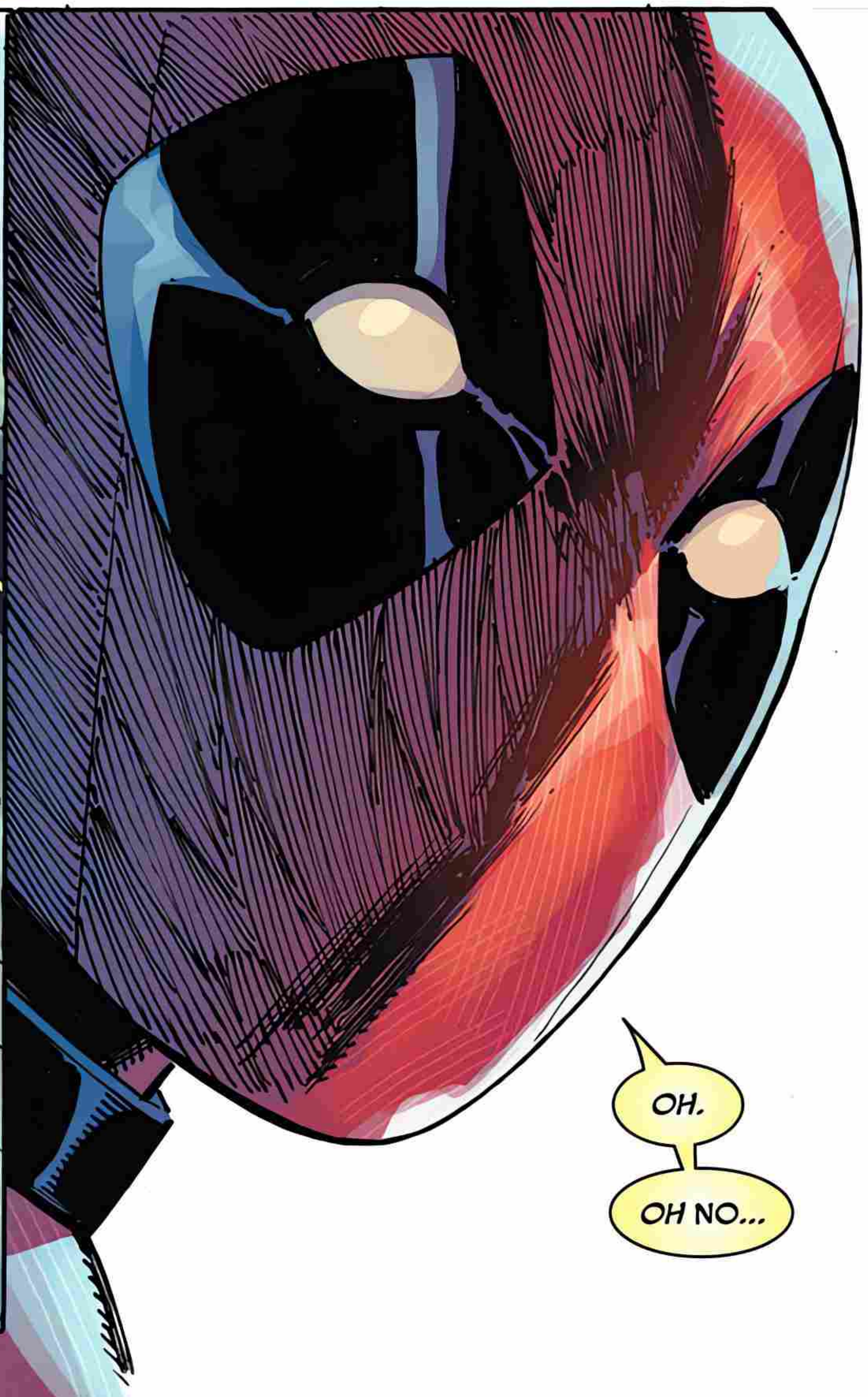


INCINERATED IN THE FAR
REACHES OF SPACE
AFTER MOUTHING OFF TO
AN ENTIRE LEGION OF--



SERIOUSLY?!
AGAIN?!

NICE WORK,
STARPOOL--



OH.
OH NO...



YOU
BEAMED HIM
RIGHT TO
US.

COSMIC
AWADENESS
AT ITS BEST!

YEAH, DUDE,
DON'T CALL IT
THAT.

THINK IT'S
REALLY HIM, BOSS?
I MEAN, IT LOOKS
LIKE HIM...

WHAT DO YOU
SAY, DOGPOOL--
IS HE THE REAL
DEALPOOL?

»SNIFF«
WOOF.

GOOD
ENOUGH FOR
ME!

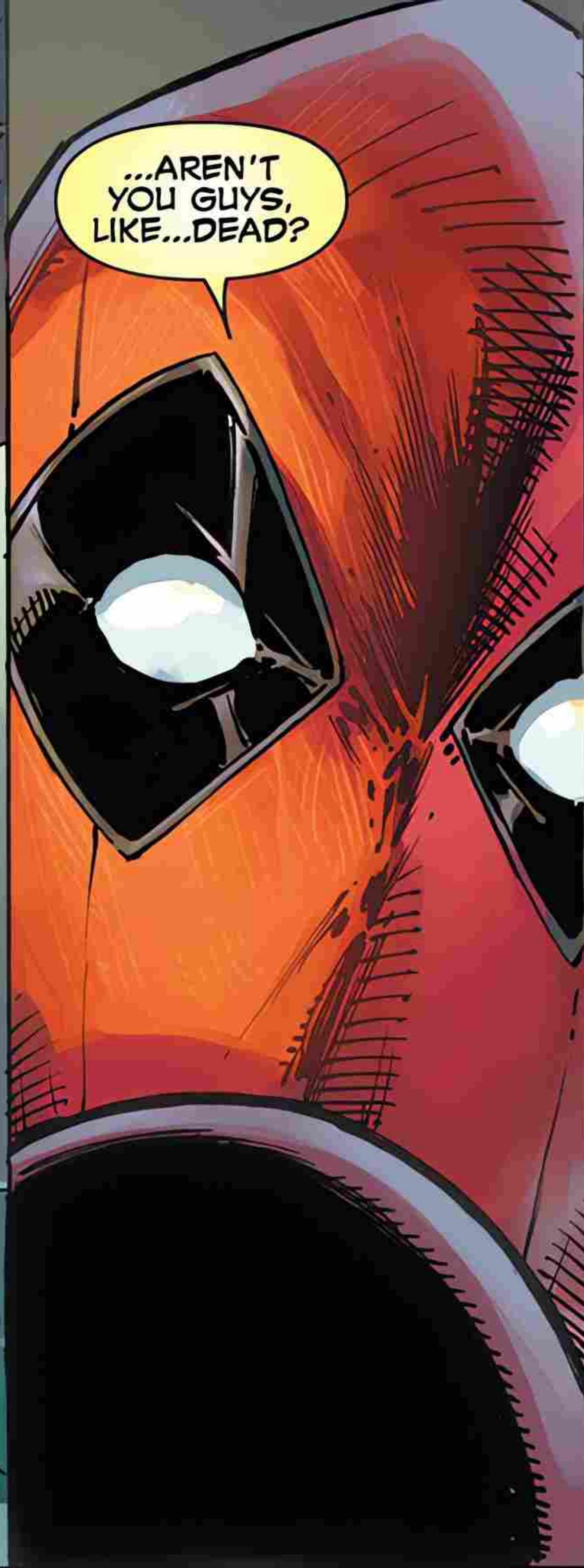
**THE
DEADPOOL
CORPS.**

BUT IT
CAN'T BE.

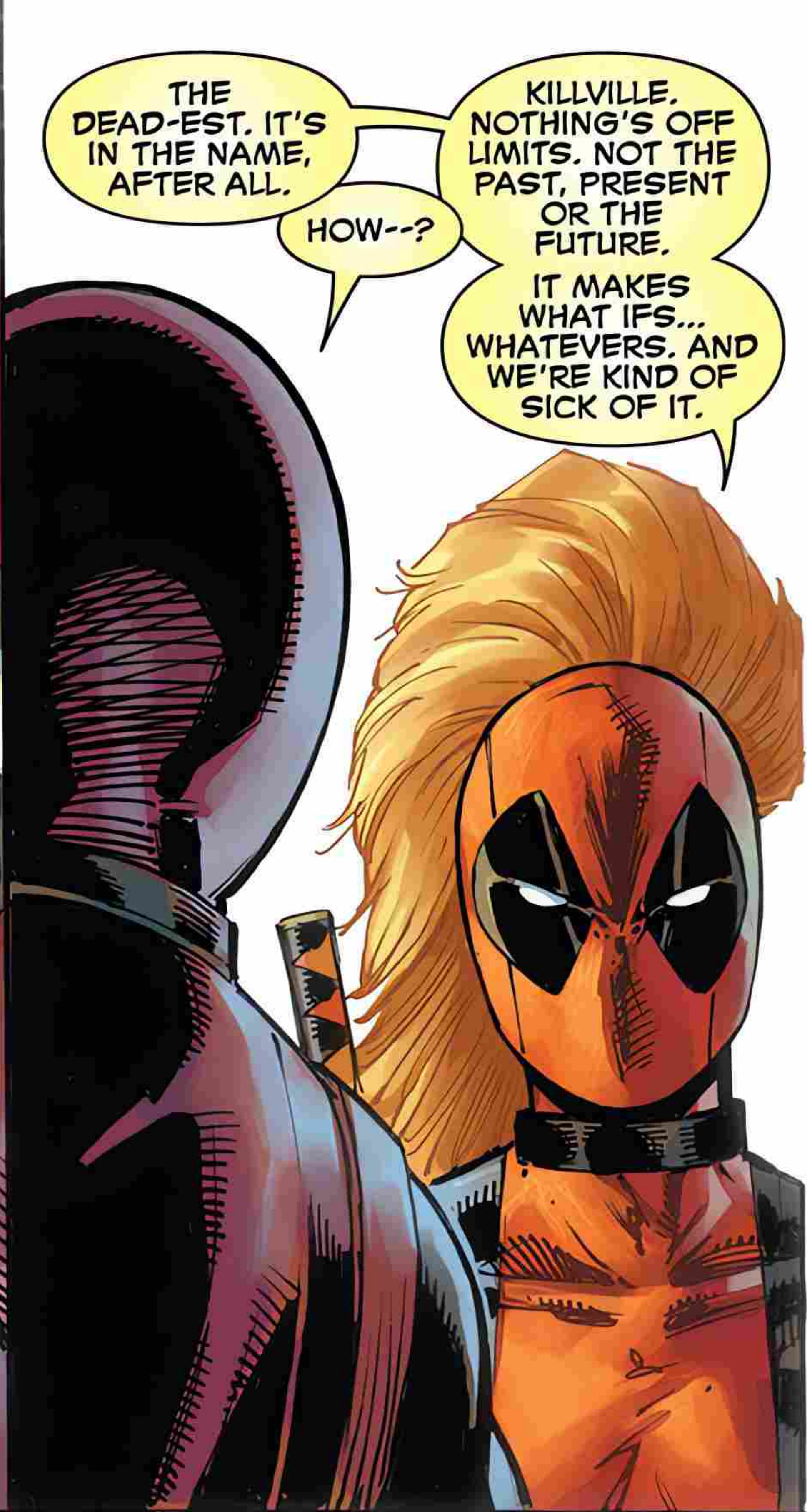


YAAAAAY!
HEY,
DAD!

I'M NOT
YOUR DAD,
KIDDO. NEVER
WAS. AND
I'M SORRY,
BUT...



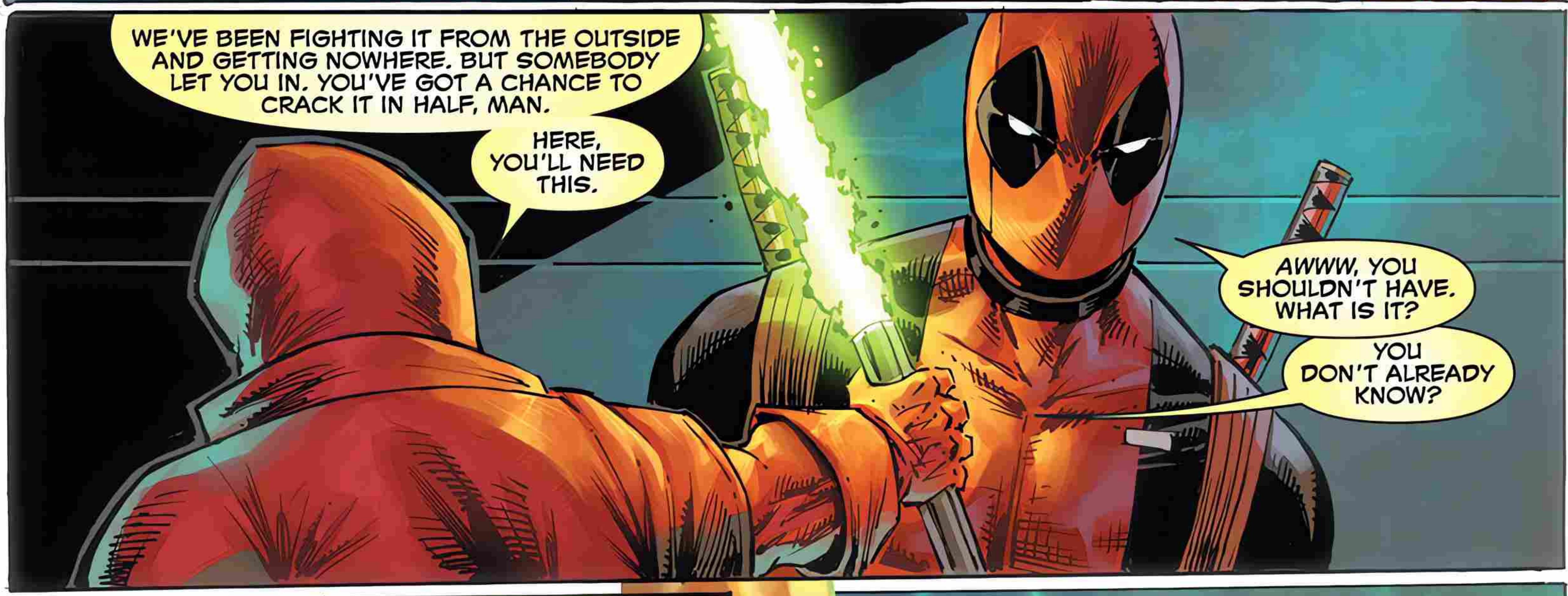
...AREN'T
YOU GUYS,
LIKE...DEAD?



THE
DEAD-EST. IT'S
IN THE NAME,
AFTER ALL.

HOW--?

KILLVILLE.
NOTHING'S OFF
LIMITS. NOT THE
PAST, PRESENT
OR THE FUTURE.
IT MAKES
WHAT IFS...
WHATEVERS. AND
WE'RE KIND OF
SICK OF IT.



WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING IT FROM THE OUTSIDE
AND GETTING NOWHERE. BUT SOMEBODY
LET YOU IN. YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO
CRACK IT IN HALF, MAN.

HERE,
YOU'LL NEED
THIS.

AWWW, YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE.
WHAT IS IT?

YOU
DON'T ALREADY
KNOW?



I MEAN,
I KNOW WHAT
IT **LOOKS**
LIKE...

AND THAT
I'VE WISHED
FOR ONE SINCE
I WAS SIX
YEARS OLD
BUT--

--UH-OH!

I'M
GETTING THAT
FEELING AGAIN.
LIKE I'M--



--SLIPPING
AWAY.

MAY
THE F--

TOO FAR,
KID!

GOOD
LUCK, WADE.
YOU'RE GONNA
NEED IT.

OKAY. LET'S
RECAP.

A MISSION TO SAVE AN OLD
FRIEND GOT DETOURED ALL TO
HELL BY SOME KIND OF BEEFY
ASSASSIN THAT SEEMS TO BE
BOTH A SENTIENT A.I. AND A
PLACE THAT CAN MANIPULATE
REALITY AND SPACE.



AND IT'S LOOKING MORE AND
MORE LIKE THERE'S PROBABLY
NO WAY TO GET OUT OF THIS
AND BACK ON TRACK THAT
DOESN'T END WITH ME
TRASHING IT REAL GOOD.



WHICH I'M
OKAY WITH AT
THIS POINT.

MMMMM.



THE HUM
OF YOUR
SWORD...

...SO
SOOTHING.



WE LIKE
IT...DON'T
WE?

OH
YESSSSSS.

MAKES
US THINK OF
A STOMACH
GROWLING.

LIKE OURS
IS RIGHT
NOW.



I HOPE BOTH
OF YOU ARE GOOD
AN' HUNGRY...

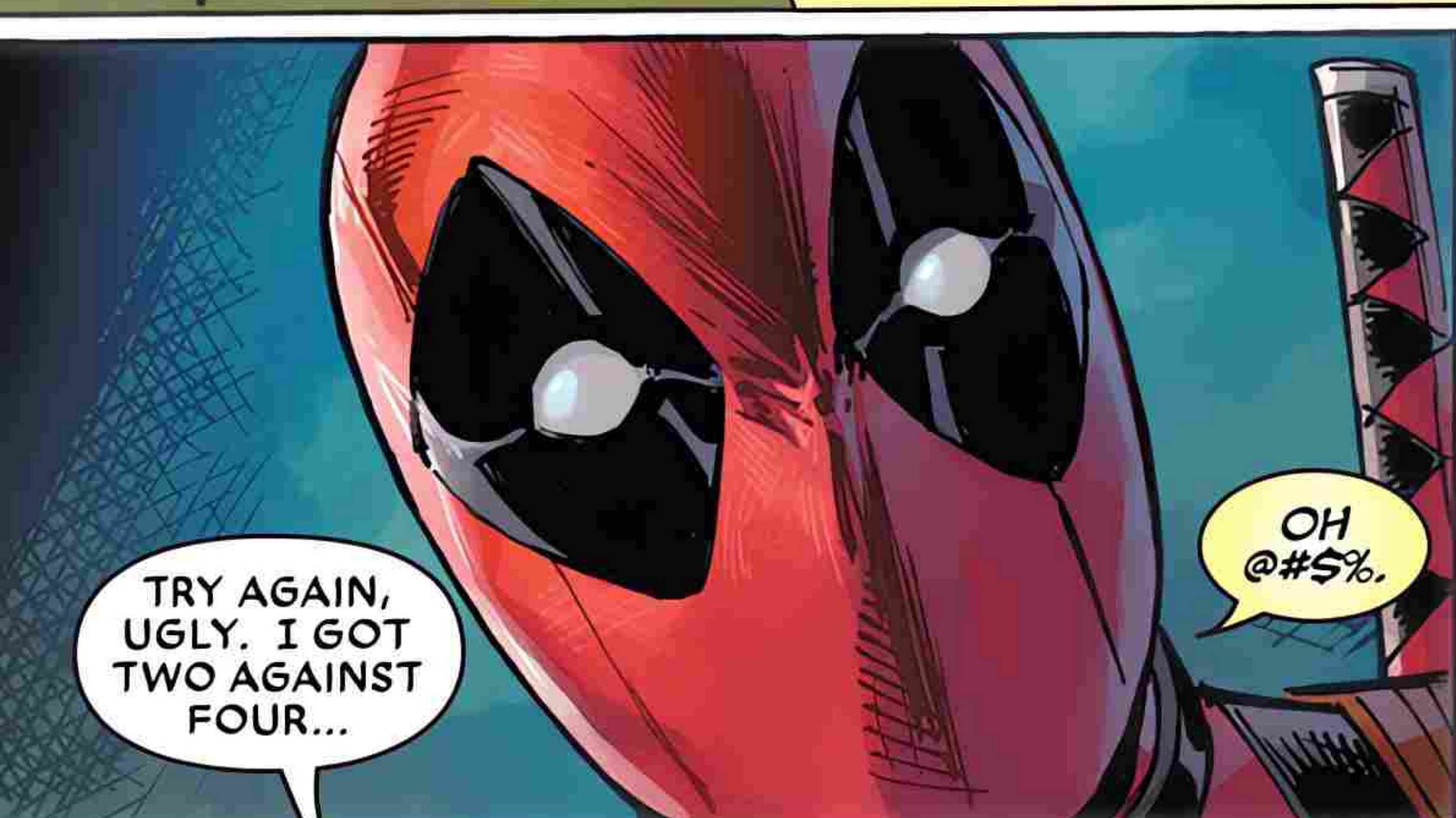
... 'CAUSE
LASER KABOBS
A LA WADE ARE
ON THE MENU
TONIGHT!

AND I'M
GONNA MAKE SURE
AND SAVE SOME LEFTOVERS
FOR WHOEVER'S RESPONSIBLE
FOR PUTTING ME IN THIS
MADHOUSE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"BOTH
OF YOU."

MISCOUNTED.
COMMON MISTAKE.

WITH OUR
SYMBIOTES--THAT
MAKES FOUR OF US.
ONE OF YOU. HAHAAAA!



TRY AGAIN,
UGLY. I GOT
TWO AGAINST
FOUR...

OH
@#\$%.



EIGHT
IF YOU ADD
THESE.

ABOUT TIME
YOU SHOWED
UP.

KEEP
THE SASS
TO YERSELF,
BUD.

I'M A BUSY
MAN. AN' RESCUIN'
YOU FROM *WHATEVER*
THIS IS WASN'T
EVEN ON MY
TO-DO LIST.

BUT CABLE'S
GOTTEN HIMSELF
INTO SOME REAL
TROUBLE. AN', GOD
HELP US...

...YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN
SAVE HIM.



**NEXT ISSUE: DEADPOOL! WOLVERINE!
VENOM! VENOMPOOL! THUMPER!
THE KITCHEN SINK!**

NEXT:

**MORE
BLOOD**



DEADPOOL #4
BADDER BLOOD